

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 51-B-13074	FILE NO. 137769																										
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT																													
SUBJECT SEE CONTENTS BELOW		(Interviewer) LUDINGTON (FN)	(Editor) WEEKS																										
AREA REPORTED ON ABEZ USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)																											
DATE OF REPORT 9 Mar 1954	DATE OF INFORMATION May 49 - Nov 49	EVALUATION F-6																											
PREPARED BY (Officer) ALBERT P. MAREYDT, Lt. Col., USAF		SOURCE 272392																											
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None																													
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)																													
<p>I. <u>TABLE OF CONTENTS:</u> Report 51-B-13074A AREA DESCRIPTION OF ABEZ (appr. 6630N/6146E) (2U)</p> <p>II. <u>DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Civilian:</u></td> <td><u>Military:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education: 8 years</td> <td>Years of Service: . . . 3½ years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade or Profession: . Commercial Employee</td> <td>Highest Rank: Sgt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Years practised: . . . 3½ years</td> <td>Branch: Army</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present Occupation: . Police</td> <td>By whom captured: . Soviets</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>SOURCE HISTORY:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Dates</u></td> <td><u>Camp #</u></td> <td><u>City or Area</u></td> <td><u>Place of Work and Duty</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 49- Sep 50</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>INTA</td> <td>Coal mines and housing constr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep 50- May 51</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>STALINGRAD</td> <td>Housing constr worker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 51- Sep 53</td> <td>6118/a</td> <td>ASBEST</td> <td>Furniture factory, milling machine operator.</td> </tr> </table> <p>III. <u>SOURCE RELIABILITY:</u> SOURCE was a pleasant young man whose intelligence was slightly above average. He was versed in map reading and drew sketches fairly well. He was very cooperative and tried very hard to give what information he had in the most honest manner. Despite his frequent attempts he was unable to draw memory sketches of STALINGRAD and ASBEST. In the first place he worked and was interned in a fenced-in complex which he never left. He did not know where it was and what was in the vicinity. The residences which were under construction were not completed and therefore, SOURCE had no information. ASBEST was not reported on because SOURCE worked only in a furniture factory. His daily way to and from work led SOURCE only through unimportant outskirts and he could not give any information of value. Information rendered by SOURCE could not be judged because the time of interview did not permit interviewer to know SOURCE well enough. Reliability of SOURCE could not be judged.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPROVED:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>D. M. Allison</i> D. M. ALLISON Colonel, United States Air Force Commander</p> <p>1 _____ INCLS.</p> <p>1. Memory Sketch of Area of ABEZ.</p>				<u>Civilian:</u>	<u>Military:</u>	Education: 8 years	Years of Service: . . . 3½ years	Trade or Profession: . Commercial Employee	Highest Rank: Sgt	Years practised: . . . 3½ years	Branch: Army	Present Occupation: . Police	By whom captured: . Soviets	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Camp #</u>	<u>City or Area</u>	<u>Place of Work and Duty</u>	Jan 49- Sep 50	Unknown	INTA	Coal mines and housing constr	Sep 50- May 51	Unknown	STALINGRAD	Housing constr worker	May 51- Sep 53	6118/a	ASBEST	Furniture factory, milling machine operator.
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COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 51-B-13074A	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Area Description of ABEZ		
AREA REPORTED ON ABEZ, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 9 Mar 54	DATE OF INFORMATION May 49 - Nov 49	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) Albert P. Mareydt, Lt. Col., USAF	SOURCE 272392	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>I. <u>PREAMBLE:</u> SOURCE was interned in a PW camp (number unknown) at INTA (appr 6602N/5959E) from Jan 49 - Sep 50. Since that place was nothing but a dirty settlement of slums with 6-8 coal mines in the vicinity, the PWs were sent to work in surrounding towns and areas. SOURCE was on detached duty in a PW Camp at ABEZ (appr 6630N/6146E) from May 49 - Nov 49. He worked as general worker on housing constr. PWs were strictly guarded and had no freedom of movement. The town and the surrounding area consisted, however, of very few points so that SOURCE knew most of them from his daily walks to and from work. Unless otherwise specified, information was based on SOURCE's own observations.</p> <p>II. <u>LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:</u> Reference is made to Incl. 1, this Rpt, Memory Sketch of Area of ABEZ, on which SOURCE identified the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MAIN SRR, RSG, which SOURCE saw only in distance of 1-2 km. SOURCE knew that SRR extended in NE or N or NW direction to VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) but otherwise he had no information.2. SAWMILL, 3 gangsaws in operation, main output constr lumber for housing constr in the area.3. CIVILIAN PENAL CAMP, seven wooden barracks, each of which was 25-30x10x5m, low pitched gable roof covered with tarpaper. Number of internees varied between 1,000 and 1,800. More than 90 percent of the internees were Russian penal workers or criminal convicts, the rest consisted of Japanese PWs, civilian internees from the East Zone of Germany, some Frenchmen, one Englishman, some Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians, 4 German PWs and one American. The American prisoner was said to be a pilot who was shot down after World War II. SOURCE saw this man every once in a while, but could not describe him any more. He did not know his name or any other details. When SOURCE left the camp in Nov 49, the American was still there.4. MILITARY GARRISON, emergency barracks for guard detachment, consisted of 3 wooden barracks, 25-30x8-10x4m each. An average of 200-300 Russian MVD soldiers was stationed there.5. SRR SPUR, RSG, connecting ABEZ with main SRR line, Pt. 1. Wooden ties were placed on the ground without ballast and heavy rails were spiked to ties. Traffic was not worth mentioning, consisting of food shipments to ABEZ and occasional lumber shipments out of ABEZ to unknown directions.6. HIGH TENSION POWER LINE, 2 or 3 cables supported by wooden poles, spaced at 40-50m. Height of poles varied from 6-10m. No insulators were observed.7. AUTOMOBILE REPAIR SHOP, steel framed brick structure, 80x30x6-8m, arched <p>INCL.5.</p>		
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steel roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. A 500x300m large area around the building was fenced in and was used as parking space and storage area for broken down vehicles of all kind. SOURCE never worked in the repair shop. He heard from other PWs that all vehicles stationed in the ABEZ area were maintained there. SOURCE estimated that 15 military trucks and 20-30 trucks for constr firms were stationed in the area. SOURCE was also told that gasoline and fuel oil was stored in the yard around the building. Gasoline and oil was contained and large drums which were buried, 200-300 barrels in one group, in 1-2m deep holes.

8. DIRT ROAD, unsurfaced, impassable in spring when the snow melted. Was only used by trucks mentioned under Pt. 7, when they needed repair or had to draw fuel.

9. CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMP FOR WOMEN, where 500 women, mostly Russians, were interned. There were also 20-25 German women, some Hungarians, some Poles, and other women of unknown nationalities. One occasion 40-50 women from the camp worked on the same constr site as SOURCE and the German women told SOURCE that they had been captured in East Prussia at the end of World War II or shortly afterwards. The majority of the women in the camp had been sentenced to 5-10 years hard labor for various reasons such as sabotage or singing anti-communist songs. Some women had not been sentenced and were held without any reason or explanation.

10. RESIDENTIAL AREA, newly built after World War II and under expansion. SOURCE helped to build 4-5 small brick houses said to be for Russian civilians. The entire area consisted of 20-30 houses, all single story brick structures, 10x6-8x5m, gable roof covered with tarpaper. Houses were equipped with electric lights, but had no other facilities. Water had to be fetched from wells which were scattered all over the area.

11. RUSSIAN PENAL CAMP, where appr 3,000 civilian internees were housed in 10-15 wooden barracks. The majority of internees were Russians, most of them political prisoners. In addition to small groups of other unknown nationals there were 20 German PWs in this camp.

12. SOCCER FIELD.

13. ROAD, partly cobblestone surfaced, but mostly dirt surface, entered ABEZ from SE direction. Road ended near sawmill, Pt. 2, this Rpt. Only the trucks mentioned under Pt. 7, used this road, mostly engaged in hauling constr material.

14. SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS, consisting of 20-30 very small wooden huts, moderately built up and surrounded by small gardens. These houses had no electric lights and no running water.

15. KINDERGARTEN, wood structure, 30x10x7-8m, two stories, gable roof, covered with corrugated sheet metal.

16. FORMER GARRISON, which burned down completely in Oct 49. Building had been at least 100m long with 3 sidewings. Had housed all MVD troops stationed in this area. Fellow PWs told SOURCE that a radio station had been installed. After the building had burned down, troops were stationed at Pt. 4, this Rpt, and small detachments were stationed within the various camps. All prisoners and especially German PWs were accused of being responsible for the fire and therefore SOURCE and two other German PWs were transferred back to INTA a few days after the fire.

17. BOILER HOUSE OR HEATING PLANT, a wood structure, 20x10x10m, gable roof covered with tiles. A sheetmetal smokestack, 1m in diameter and 10m high, protruded from the top of the roof. SOURCE was never inside, but heard from other PWs that steam for heating purposes was produced. Steam was conveyed through underground pipelines to Pts 16 and 18.

18. RUSSIAN CLUB, wood structure, 20-30x10-12m, two stories, gable roof covered with tiles.

19. RESIDENTIAL AREAS, consisting of wood houses, all single storied with straw covered gable roofs. Buildings were what SOURCE called typical Russian shacks, not bigger than 10x6x5m, but at least 20-25 persons were housed in each of them. Electric light was installed, but no running water.

20. USA RIVER, appr 300m wide, extending in winding bends, but SOURCE did not

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know in which direction water flowed. He observed river only from distance of 1 km and farther.

21. FISH PROCESSING PLANT, stone structure, 30-40x20m, two stories, gable roof covered with sheetmetal. Plant was not in operation in 1949.

22. TRANSFORMER STATION, brick structure, 7x7x5m, flat roof, no windows. SOURCE was never inside. Power transmissions, with the exception of Pt. 6, were said to be underground. SOURCE had no further information.

23. VILLAGE, appr location, situated on opposite river side, seen in distance of 3km only. Fellow PWs told SOURCE that test drills for oil had been performed in the vicinity of that village in 1946 through 1948.

24. UNLOADING SITE, where all shipments, made by rail to ABEZ were unloaded and stored until they were picked up by trucks. There were several large lumber piles, one large pile of cement in bags, and enormous quantities of potatoes. Potatoes were the main food for prisoners. They were stored in earth bunkers which were covered with straw and dirt.

25. RR BRIDGE, seen in distance of 3 km only. It was a steel truss structure. SOURCE had no further information.

26. RUSSIAN PENAL CAMP, where appr 1,000 Russian civilians were interned for political and criminal reasons.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Fellow PWs told SOURCE the following: ABEZ was more or less a dead town when the first prisoners arrived in 1946. There were some hundred free Russians, but they were hardly visible and nobody knew how and from what they lived. Later on PWs found out that ABEZ was founded around 1940 when some coal mines were opened in the vicinity. These mines, however, were so poor in coal quantity and quality that they were closed very soon and most of the Russians left the area again. In 1946-48, a new boom seemed to revive ABEZ when oil was said to be found. But again the hopes were not fulfilled and the civilian population left again. In the meantime 4-5 prison camps had been erected in and around town. When SOURCE arrived in 1949, there were rumors among PWs that oil was found again and that in the near future tests would be made.

George B. Mareydt
for ALBERT P. MAREYDT
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Commander
7051 AISS

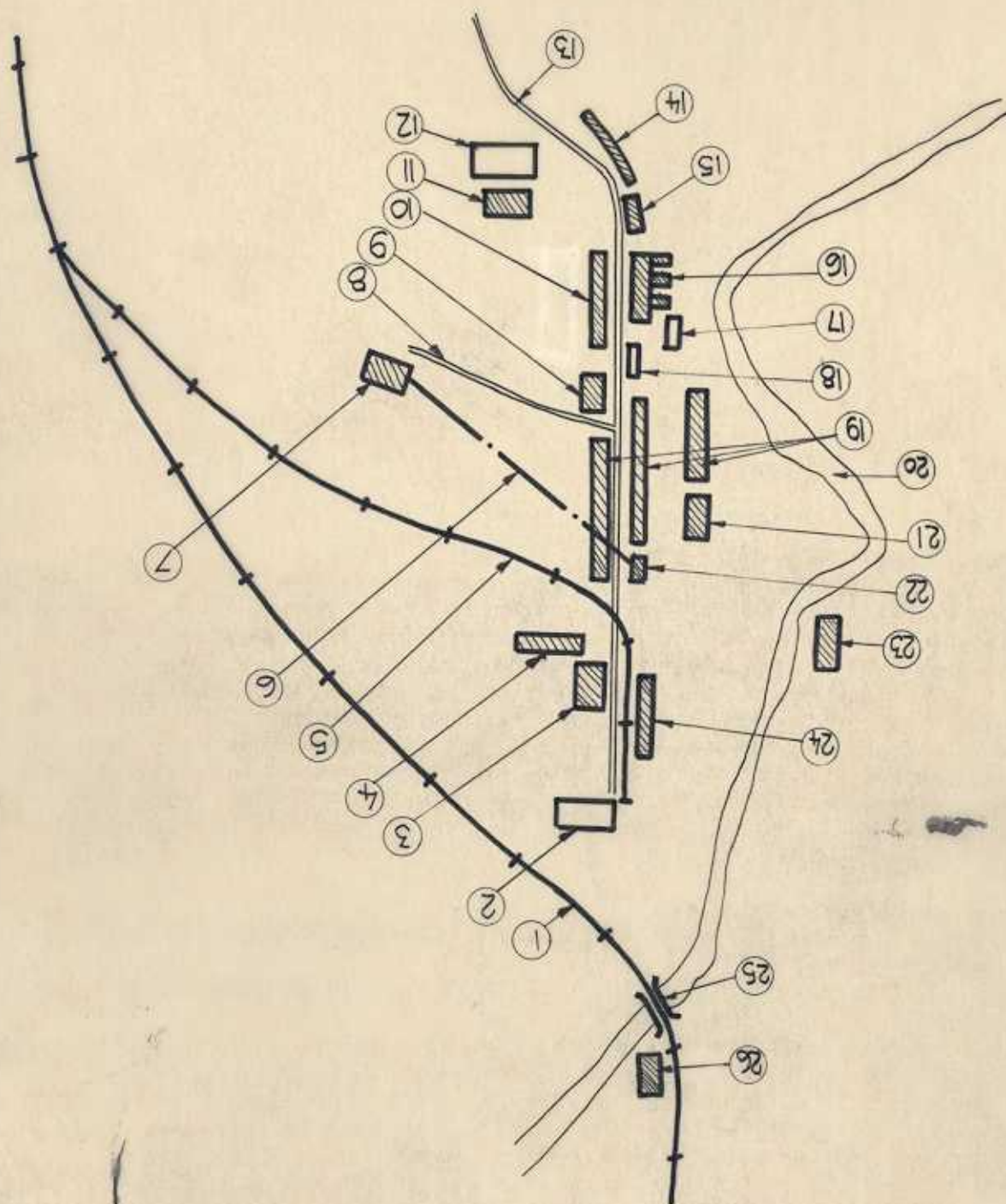
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Memory Sketch of Area of
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